

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

B-
Survey No. 4642

1. Name

Historic 1500-1518 North Spring Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1500-1518 North Spring Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☐ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ educational ☒ private residence
☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ government ☐ scientific
☐ industrial ☐ transportation
☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of ten two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1891 by Henry Westphal, a major builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. Many of the houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted, while others are covered in formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'8" wide, and occupy lots 95' 6" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted and striped. Each house has a chimney stack located in the middle of the front room and at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with wooden balls and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The brackets frame a row of brick dentils set above a plain frieze area. A continuous lower band completes the frieze area.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have decorative, segmentally arched brick lintels, with projecting and recessed headers giving the effect of the period's more elaborate molded brick work Queen Anne-style lintels. The single light doorway transom is framed by a scored quarter-round molding. The row shows a variety of replacement door types and all of the window sash are now 1/1. The sills are wood. The houses sit on fairly high basements, which were originally painted white in an attempt to imitate marble, lit by a single two-light sash set beneath a header segmental arch. Each front door (no original doors remain) is reached by four or five concrete steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1891

Builder/Architect Henry Westphal

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by Henry Westphal, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders like Westphal acquired anywhere from an eighth to a quarter of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200-\$1,500; small street houses for \$500-\$600.

Westphal sold his main street houses in this northeast Baltimore neighborhood to mainly German owner-occupants, who received their mortgages from a group of local Northeast Baltimore building and loans, including notably, the 21st German-American Building Association. These houses on Spring St. sold mainly to Bohemians, many of whom got their mortgages from the Bohemian Workingman's Building Association #2, but some also sold to Germans. Some of the first buyers of these homes on Spring Street included Johan Neuman and Anton Duchon, tailors; Charles Ewalt and Henry Sherman, cabinetmakers; Frederick Schumann, a driver; Stephen Fehrer and Charles Vogel, carpenters; and Charles Von Newendorf, a printer.¹

¹ Baltimore City Directory, 1895.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 1999

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4642

1500-1518 N. Spring St
BALTO. MD

ROAD

AVE

TUNNEL

ST

ENTRANCE TO TUNNEL
P. R. R.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

1906 City Atlas

ST.

110

66

50

NORTH

160

N. SPRING

ST

HALESLEY PL

PRINCE
ST. JOSEPH'S
N. 20

RACE
BAPTIST

ST. JOSEPH'S

SCHOOL

RIDGE

CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER

N. BETHEL
OLIVER PL

N. BETHEL

66

50

GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

[illegible]



B-4642

1500-1518 N. Spring St.

BALTO, MD

W. Nicol

9/96

MD 5470

100

[550] 15 0211 H 4 11 2

1/2



B-4642

1510 Spring St.

BALTO, MD

W. Nield

9/96

2/2

END

1351 5121 1046